Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00963 071607Z ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 /049 W ------072259Z 057739 /14

R 071435Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3244 INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, LE

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIR: RESUMPTION OF PAN AMERICAN FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT

- 1. AT END OF CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS MARCH 5, PRESIDENT SARKIS ASKED ME WHAT PAN AMERICAN'S INTENTIONS WERE WITH REGARD TO RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT. HE, AND MANY LEBANESE, FELT THAT RESUMPTION OF THESE FLIGHTS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT SIGN OF CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL SITUATION. IT HAD BEEN SAID IN AMERICA THAT IF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY WENT WELL, THE WHOLE ECONOMY WENT WELL. IN FRANCE IT WAS THE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS. FOR HIM, IN LEBANON, IT WAS PAN AMERICAN.
- 2. I SAID IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT PANAM WOULD PROBABLY RESTORE AND REOPEN THE PHOENICIA HOTEL, BUT I DID NOT KNOW ITS INTENTIONS REGARDING FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT. I THOUGHT IT WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON THE SECURITY SITUATION.
- 3. ALLOWING FOR A SLIGHT RHETORICAL EXAGGERATION, I AGREE THAT RESUMPTION OF PANAM FLIGHTS WOULD GIVE SIGNIFICANT BOOST TO LEBANESE SPIRITS, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOD KNOWS THEY NEED IT.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT SOUND OUT PANAM ON QUESTION. PARKER

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	Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009
INN					

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: AIR ROUTES, AIR SCHEDULES

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT00963
Document Source: Conference Confe

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770078-0488

Format: TEL From: BEIRUT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczcq.tel

Line Count: 59 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 855f81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3191378 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CIVIL AIR: RESUMPTION OF PAN AMERICAN FLIGHTS TO BEIRUT

TAGS: EAIR, LE, US, PANAM

To: STATE Type: TE

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